



# Raging Thirst



spacestation

saloon

19 0 2

## Chapter 1 by Tim Starry

Henry heard the front door creak open, followed by a gravelly voice: "ale." He stopped loading glasses into the dishwasher to pour for his latest customer. He didn't have to ask what kind of ale, the *Raging Thirst* stocked many varieties. There was something familiar about the voice and here the simple word **ale** meant only one thing: the house ale. Henry knew this guy had been in the bar before and preferred the blue concoction brewed in the basement.

The customer sat at the stool, his face revealed by the lights above the bar. Henry finished filling the mug, thinking that this guy was definitely familiar. Couldn't put any details to when he had last seen the guy. Henry had seen a lot of visitors in the many years as lead barman.

"Thanks," he mumbled, face down staring at the mug. He remained that way for a few minutes and then took a long, slow drink. "Ahh, that's what I remember."

Henry was about to strike up a conversation, still trying to put details to the face, when he was interrupted by an exclamation from the stock room.

"We're out of wine!" Stella yelled as she banged through the door.

"That's impossible," Henry replied. "We've got wine in the stock room." "That's not possible," Stockboy replied. "That's impossible," Henry replied. "We've got wine in the stock room." "That's not possible," Stockboy was the Raging Thirst's logistic director.

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"No," Stella corrected. "It created an order but never transmitted. Probably about the time it broke down and we had to send it to maintenance."

"Now what do we do?" Henry sighed.

"Maybe I can help," offered the customer, holding up his now empty mug.

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